



2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

July 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Hospice Facilities

FROM: Dennis Gibbs, Director
Division of Health Licensing

*Randy Clark
for Dennis Gibbs*

SUBJECT: Provider-Wide Exception – One-hour fire-resistive construction and 20-minute fire-rated doors

Section 2909.I. of Regulation 61-78, Standards for Licensing Hospices, requires that "...Except for facilities with five beds or less, each patient room is considered a tenant space and shall be enclosed by one-hour fire-resistive construction with a 20-minute fire-rated door, opening onto an exit access corridor."

In the interest of establishing reasonable standards that can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of the patients of hospice facilities, it has been determined that an alternative standard that meets the applicable International Building Code (IBC) and the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) Code standards will be considered as acceptable.

All hospice facilities will be required to meet the standard outlined in the licensing standards, i.e., R61-78, Section 2909.I., that require one-hour fire-resistive enclosures with a 20-minute fire-rated door, or, as an alternative in hospice facilities:

"In fully sprinklered facilities, and in accordance with NFPA 13 and the IBC, one-hour fire-resistive separation construction and 20-minute fire-rated doors that open onto an exit access corridor are not required; solid core doors to patient rooms and non-rated corridor and room walls will be acceptable."

This exception applies to any fully sprinklered hospice facility licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please call Frank Montgomery at 803) 545-4216.

DLG/reI

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